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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	NEA-00
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	DOHS-00	SP-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6130  
 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000888

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, PHUM, SW, EG  
 SUBJECT: SWEDEN: PRESS REPORT CLAIMS U.S.-ASSISTED  
 DEPORTATION OF TERROR SUSPECTS RESULTED IN TORTURE

1. (U) SUMMARY. A MAY 17 SWEDISH TELEVISION PROGRAM CLAIMED TWO EGYPTIAN CITIZENS HAD BEEN TORTURED BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER BEING DEPORTED FROM SWEDEN ON CHARGES RELATED TO TERRORISM. THE PROGRAM ALSO CLAIMED U.S. OFFICIALS ASSISTED IN THE EXTRADITION. THESE ACCUSATIONS, SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP BY VARIOUS OTHER SWEDISH MEDIA, HAVE RESULTED IN PUBLIC CONTROVERSY AND IN CALLS FOR AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. SWEDISH OFFICIALS SAY A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WILL BE SET UP TO LOOK INTO THE ACCUSATIONS SINCE SWEDISH AGREEMENT TO THE EXTRADITION WAS BASED ON ASSURANCES FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE SUSPECTS WOULD BE GIVEN FAIR TRIALS AND NOT SUBJECTED TO TORTURE. REGARDING U.S. INVOLVEMENT, AN INITIAL RESPONSE FROM THE SWEDISH SECURITY SERVICE STATED ONLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO A MAY 19 PRESS REPORT, SWEDEN'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE NOW SAYS THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEPORTATION A FEW WEEKS AFTER THE EVENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON MAY 17, A TELEVISION NEWS MAGAZINE, "KALLA FAKTA" (HARD FACTS), AIRED A SEGMENT ABOUT TWO EGYPTIAN CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN DEPORTED FROM SWEDEN TO EGYPT IN DECEMBER 2001 BECAUSE THEY WERE SUSPECTED OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THE PROGRAM ASSERTED THAT THE TWO SUSPECTS, AHMED AGIZA AND MUHAMMED AL ZERY, WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TORTURED BY EGYPTIAN

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AUTHORITIES. THE TV PROGRAM ALSO ALLEGED THAT THERE WAS U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEPORTATION, THAT A GULFSTREAM AIRCRAFT LEASED TO THE USG WAS USED TO FLY THE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS TO EGYPT. THE REPORT FURTHER CLAIMED THAT "SIX TO EIGHT U.S. AGENTS" WERE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR THE PRISONERS AT SWEDEN'S BROMMA AIRPORT AND IN LOADING THEM ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT.

### PROGRAM LEADS TO WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

3. (U) IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE AIRING OF THE PROGRAM, PARLIAMENTARIANS, HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE INCREASINGLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE EXTRADITION. ON MAY 18, MEMBERS OF THE CENTER, LEFT AND GREEN PARTIES STATED THEY WOULD BRING THE ISSUE BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, DEMANDING THAT THE COMMITTEE EXAMINE THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS RELATING TO THE EXTRADITION, AS WELL AS ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THE HELSINKI COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ALSO WEIGHED IN, CRITICIZING THE DECISION TO EXTRADITE AND THE TREATMENT OF THE SUSPECTS.

### SWEDISH OFFICIALS DEFEND DEPORTATION DECISION AND PROMISE INQUIRY OF TORTURE ALLEGATIONS

4. (U) SWEDISH OFFICIALS RESPONDED THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE TWO MEN WOULD RECEIVE FAIR TRIALS AND NOT BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE. FOREIGN MINISTER LAILA FREIVALDS DENIED THE GOVERNMENT HAD HANDLED THE SITUATION INCORRECTLY, BUT ADDED THAT A SERIOUS INQUIRY WOULD BE LAUNCHED TO SEE IF EGYPT HAD FAILED TO FULFILL THE CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT IT MADE WITH SWEDEN. STATE SECRETARY HANS DAHLGREN REPORTEDLY SAID SWEDEN WAS PREPARED TO SEND A DELEGATION OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO CAIRO IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE TORTURE ALLEGATIONS, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF RETRIALS FOR THE SUSPECTS. HOWEVER, DAHLGREN ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHY THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN DEPORTED, THAT THEY HAD CLEAR LINKS TO NOTORIOUS TERRORISTS AND WERE SUSPECTED OF PLANNING TERRORIST OPERATIONS FROM SWEDISH TERRITORY. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION HAD BEEN BASED ON MATERIAL FROM DIFFERENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE U.S.

### MINISTER OF JUSTICE SAYS THERE WAS U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN DEPORTATION

5. (U) REGARDING THE NEWS REPORT'S ASSERTION THAT THERE HAD BEEN U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEPORTATION, A SWEDISH SECURITY POLICE (SAPO) SAID ONLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. ON MAY 19, HOWEVER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE THOMAS

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BODSTROM REPORTEDLY TOLD TV4 THAT, A FEW WEEKS AFTER THE DEPORTATION, HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE HAD BEEN INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LEFT, CENTER AND LIBERAL PARTIES HAVE SAID THEY THINK IT IS UNSUITABLE FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TO OPERATE ON SWEDISH TERRITORY.

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